



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Pinedale Region

May 2016 Newsletter



Spawning Colorado Cutts

The Daniel Hatchery crew spent eight weeks gathering eggs and milt from their Colorado River cutthroat trout. A total of 620,000 eggs were collected and fertilized to grow young trout that will be stocked in a variety of waters across the Cowboy State. The Colorado cutthroat was petitioned for listing as an endangered species. It was determined to be warranted, but was not listed in favor of concentrating on other species in greater need. The Game and Fish Department's Daniel Hatchery is the sole source of Colorado River cutts for Wyoming and is vital in keeping the species from being listed. Fish will be stocked in several area waters later this summer. The parent fish are from North Piney Lake in the Wyoming Range.



Photos: (Upper right) Daniel Hatchery Superintendent Tim Kurtz collects eggs from a five-year-old female Colorado River cutthroat trout. (Right) Assistant Hatchery Superintendent Greg Anderson points out the "eyed" eggs from trout previously spawned.





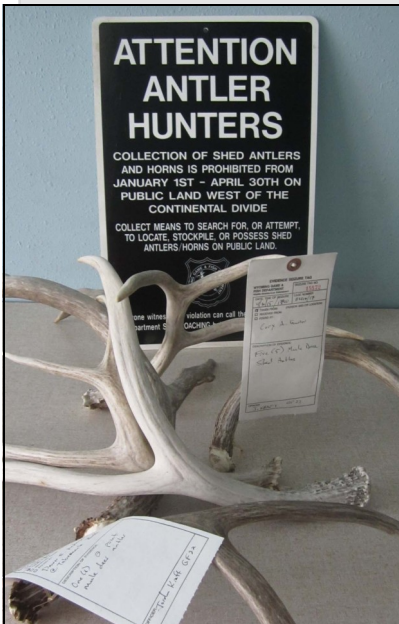
Pinedale Region Monthly Newsletter

May 2016

Antler Hunters Get Stiff Penalties

Game wardens in the Jackson/Pinedale area have spent countless hours patrolling big game winter ranges and enforcing the shed antler regulation this winter. Wardens have continued to receive several calls and complaints of potential antler hunting violations. Most reports of suspicious activity have been legal and not associated with antler hunting. However, quite a few have not.

There have been several antler hunters that have chosen not to wait until the May 1 opener. Between both the Pinedale and Jackson regions, a total of 16 citations and two warnings have been issued to individuals who violated shed antler regulations, with four additional cases pending court action. Violators were from Sublette, Teton, and Sweetwater counties in Wyoming, in addition to Utah and Idaho.



Regional game wardens are pleased to report that violators are starting to receive stiffer penalties these days, including not only the loss of antler hunting privileges, but all hunting privileges in some cases. Penalties have varied from six months to two years loss of hunting privileges and up to two years loss of antler hunting privileges. Additional penalties have totaled almost \$4150 in fines, over 105 hours of community service and 70 days in jail (suspended). The stiffer penalties being handed down are thanks to the Sublette and Teton County circuit court judges and county attorneys.

“Naturally, the law-abiding antler hunters want strict enforcement of the regulation and stiff penalties for those that are apprehended,” said Big Piney Game Warden Adam Hymas. “We believe the number of cases being made and the stiffer penalties make a strong statement and hopefully will cause antler hunters to think twice

before violating the antler regulation. A few of these defendants can’t hunt or apply for hunting licenses for two years.” Many additional antler cases have been made in Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.





Pinedale Region Monthly Newsletter

May 2016



A Redo for Dollar

Pinedale fisheries managers are considering a reboot for the fish in Dollar Lake adjacent to the Green River north of Pinedale. In 2007, fish biologists made a startling discovery when the first nonnative white sucker was captured during routine monitoring of the fish population in the lake. Since then, white sucker numbers have grown exponentially and today account for 99% of the fish population in the lake (not including minnows and dace). Given the popularity of suckers as a live bait-fish in other parts of the state, it is suspected that the white suckers may have been introduced into Dollar Lake by illegal bait fisherman.

This popular lake attracts thousands of anglers every year due to its close proximity to the Upper Green River road (FS 650) and its good rainbow trout population.

The best means of dealing with sucker populations like the one in Dollar Lake is to completely eradicate them. In most instances, eradication of a fish species involves the application of a fish toxicant, such as rotenone, that will remove all of the fish in a water body. Rotenone has been successfully used to remove undesirable fish species in many places.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is considering a plan to eradicate white suckers from Dollar Lake sometime in the near future. Once the white sucker population has been removed, the lake can be restocked with rainbow trout that will likely flourish again in the competitor-free environment.

Tiger trout, a brown trout – brook trout hybrid, may also be introduced into the lake in small numbers following the removal effort. Tiger trout are an effective predator of other fish and will be used to prevent the future establishment of another white sucker population. Rainbow trout that are stocked in Dollar Lake would be too large for most tiger trout to eat. Other species of fish native to the lake, such as speckled dace and mountain sucker, may also be introduced to rebuild the original fish community.

Public meetings and commenting periods will be used to gauge the public's interest and support for treating Dollar Lake. If you have any comments or concerns regarding the situation in Dollar Lake or any other local fishery, please feel free to contact the Regional Office for more information.



Soda Lake Survival

Soda Lake north of Pinedale suffered some winterkill, but fish biologists have determined that live brook and brown trout do still inhabit this popular fishery. The fishing season at Soda Lake opened on May 10. Anglers can expect catch rates similar to what they had last year.



Pinedale Region Monthly Newsletter

May 2016



Movin' Moose

When a rancher in Farson was charged by a young bull moose that had been hanging around his yard most of the winter, he decided it was time for him to go back to the mountains. Pinedale Brucellosis-Fedground-Habitat Biologist Jared Rogerson and Pinedale Wildlife Biologist Dean Clause darted the

ornery bull, treated him with antibiotics, loaded him into a horse trailer and released the moose some 30 miles away up the Big Sandy river.



New Fence

The Pinedale Habitat & Access crew made fence repairs at the Sommers boat ramp and Huston Public Access Area on the Green River west of Pinedale.



Pinedale Region Monthly Newsletter

May 2016

Recruiting Safe Hunters

A new set of hunters will be out in force this fall, Big Piney Game Warden Adam Hymas assisted in teaching a hunter education class in Marbleton to 33 students. Many thanks to volunteer instructors Jim Johnson and Tex Williams for making this happen twice a year in Big Piney. (Right) Instructor Jim Johnson demonstrates the finer points of outdoor survival to a willing student!



Horse Training

Many Game and Fish employees spend the better part of the summer on horseback checking hunters and anglers, recovering radio transmitters, documenting wildlife distribution or even stocking fish. Each year, department staff conducts their own horse safety training and this year it was in Big Piney.

Photos: (Upper left) A line-up of participants. (Above) Wildlife Division Chief Brian Nesvik instructs on packing a load. (Below) Game and Fish Director Scott Talbott shows how to safely pack an elk rack. (Left) Pinedale Brucellosis Biologist Jared Rogerson handles his horse in a close encounter with an inflatable moving creature.

